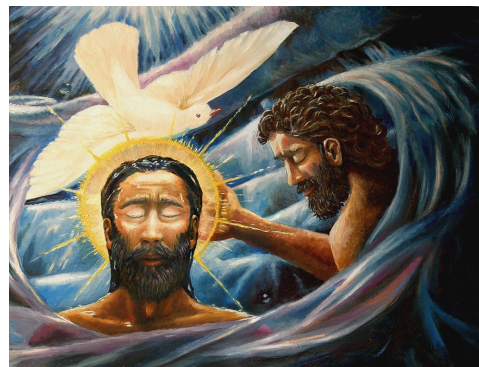


# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## Weekly devotions, prayers and news The First Sunday of Lent

How can today's reading call to mind The Wild Wood from *The Wind in the Willows*? In the passage, Mark outlines - in brief - the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness which, at first glance, has nothing to do with that well-loved children's story. But, on further reading, we can look on The Wild Wood as a metaphor for our own personal wildernesses – those things that are sent to test us, challenge us and confound us throughout our life. The dark places beyond safety where we feel lost and alone. The end of the reading, after Jesus has left the wilderness, encourages us that the time has finally come and that God's Kingdom is near – our task is to hold onto His word, His love and to believe in His Good News. With that as our guide, the Wild Wood of our dark days doesn't seem so dark anymore...

Charlotte

### First Sunday of Lent (18 February 2024)

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in church)

Readers: Ralph Colbran and Margaret Thistlethwaite

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** (in church & online)

Hymns: 121, 702, 128, 358, 118, 134

**6.00 Evensong**

Hymns: 116, 127, 218

Readers: David Spear and Carolyn Ponder

### Services during the week:

**Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship)** (in church & online)

Readings: Jonah Chap 3; Luke 11: 29-32

**2:00pm Online prayer group** (online)

**Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)** (in church)

Readings: Esther 14: 1-5, 12-14; Matthew 7: 7-12

**7.00pm Diocesan Lent Course** (online)

**7.30pm Vicar's Lent Course**

**Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** Readings: First Sunday of Lent (in church)

Church website: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

### Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent (25 February 2024)

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in church)

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** (in church & online)

### For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website

#### **The Collect First Sunday of Lent**

Almighty God,  
whose Son, Jesus Christ fasted forty days  
in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are,  
yet without sin; give us grace to discipline  
ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

#### **The Post Communion Prayer:**

Lord God, you have renewed us  
with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him  
who is the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Genesis 9: 8-17**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

### **1 Peter 3: 18-end**

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### **Mark 1: 9-15**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

### **Parish News**

#### **Lent courses**

Father Daniel will be holding a Lent course from 22nd February. He will be following Hilary Brand's course "Finding a Voice", using the film The King's Speech. The sessions will run from 7:30-9:30 pm, with the option of joining for a simple Lent Supper at 6. To book a place, please use the QR code or the link in the enews or contact Emma in the office. The church will also run the Diocesan Lent course online, focusing on the full revelation of God's Word in Jesus Christ (the Word-made flesh). This will run online at 7pm on Thursdays starting on 22nd February; to join please use the usual Zoom button on the website. See the noticeboard in the church for further details.



#### **Sing Gloria!**

For those of you who like to be able to join in with the service music with confidence, we will be running a "Sing Gloria!" evening in the church at 7pm on 6th March. This will be a chance to practice the service music that will be in use after Easter, as well as to try a few other versions. All welcome! To give us an idea of numbers, please book using the QR code or the link in the enews or contact Emma in the office.



#### **Home Communion—appeal**

We are looking to purchase a Home Communion set for the church, to take Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend services in person. If you would be interested in contributing towards this, please see the wardens.

#### **Books—free to a good home!**

There are a number of books at the back of the church which you are welcome to take away.

**Please remember those for whom we pray:**

**Wedding couples: Harry and Emma, due to be married at St Margaret the Queen, Buxted; Georgie and Matt, due to be married at Bolney**

**Immediate need:** Martin Packham, Becky Parker, Jim Knight, Tina Owens, James Watson, Bill Delany, David King

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, Eileen Macdougall, George Snashall, Karen Leese, Jill Knight, Yvonne Godsmark

**Those in Care Homes:** Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Keith Card

**Please remember the recently departed and their families:**

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 18<sup>th</sup> Thelma Dixon, Sidnall Stenning; 19<sup>th</sup> Gladys Webb, Barbara Hastings, Eleanor Springall, Betty Fry; 20<sup>th</sup> Ronald Middleton MBE; 22<sup>nd</sup> Leigh McKay; 24<sup>th</sup> Heidi Simpson